

HUNTSVILLE, ALA.  
TIMES

E. 40,043  
S. 40,485

JAN 19 1967

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## At Ordnance Meeting

Vice Adm. William F. Raborn, U.S. Navy (Ret), at right, chats with Col. Niles Bengston, at a social session prior to a dinner meeting of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the American Ordnance Association at Redstone Arsenal Officers club last night. Raborn, former head of CIA, was guest speaker.

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(Times Photo)

# Secrecy Said Success Key

By PHIL GARNER  
Times Science Editor

Admitting he sits through a television spy-thriller or reads a cloak-and-dagger novel now and then, a former chief of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) says secrecy is the secret of the current spy craze in entertainment.

But secrecy is also the key to the CIA's success in information.

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to the nation's decision-makers, despite the objections of those who fear the agency carries its super-secret role too far, he said.

In an interview preceding a speech to the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the American Ordnance Association, Vice Adm. William Raborn, U.S. Navy, (Ret), said he thinks people like spy stories because they

their view in real life.

"If you know something is a secret, you want to know about it," said Raborn. "You don't know what's going on behind the walls of the house next to you, so you watch soap operas to get the next best thing."

Raborn stoutly defended the obscurity of CIA's activities in the face of growing criticism while he was head of CIA, and has not changed his mind about the need for secrecy now that he is in private life. Now a vice president and general representative for Aerojet-General Corp., Raborn was director of the CIA from April, 1965 until July, 1966.

He expressed regret at having exercised an option to

leave the post when he wished, and hinted strongly to a gathering of naval alumni earlier in the day that he might have stayed, given the opportunity to "do it all over again."

Speaking to an audience of 275 persons at Redstone Arsenal officers club, Raborn said of President Lyndon Johnson, "I feel a little bit like I ran out on him in a way, but don't take that as it sounds. It's just an emotion that any veteran might feel when he sees a job to be done — a desire to put his shoulder to the wheel."

The CIA should be recognized as "a church-going member of our national government," Raborn declared.

Of those in Congress who have charged CIA is not well supervised, Raborn said: "What it means is that they are not on the committees that do the supervising."

"The agency is well-regulated and well-organized," said Raborn.

The former CIA head called the intelligence contest between East and West "a constant battle going on day-in and day-out."

"We can't do without this arm of the government," he declared. "Five presidents have said they couldn't do their jobs without this arm of the government."